In the Claims
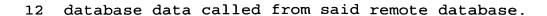
1   1.   An identification card reader for processing an

2   identification card having at least one dataform, said reader

3   comprising:

4   a housing having at least a bottom and a side;

5   a control panel disposed on said housing;

6   a display disposed on said housing;

7   a control circuit in communication with a memory;

8   a tray assembly mounted to said housing, said tray

9   assembly having a tray for receiving said identification card;

10   and

11   and an imaging assembly in communication with said

12   control circuit having an imaging axis passing through said

13   tray.

1   2.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said housing

2   includes a hole, and wherein said at least one tray opposes

3   said hole, wherein said imaging axis further passes through

4   said hole, and wherein an object detection symbol is disposed

5   on said at least one tray.

1   3.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said tray is

3   plate perpendicular to said imaging axis so that specular

4   reflections are reduced.

1   4.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said tray

2   assembly includes a plurality of trays.

1   5.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said at least one

2   tray is adapted to be of adjustable height.

1   6.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said memory

2   includes a lookup table that correlates card type with tray

3   height, and wherein said control circuit determines a card

4   type of said card and reads data from said lookup table to

5   determine a tray height for said card based on said card type.

1   7.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said tray

2   assembly includes a plurality of trays and wherein said

3   control circuit displays a prompt on said display prompting a

4   user to place a card on a certain tray of said tray assembly

5   depending on said determined tray height.

1   8. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said memory

2 includes a lookup table correlating card type with operating

3 parameters of said reader, wherein said control circuit reads

4 data of said lookup table so that operating parameters of said

5 reader vary depending upon a card type of said card.

1   9. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said control

2 circuit determines a card type of said card by displaying on

3 said display a card type prompt prompting a user for card

4 type information and by reading user input data input in

5 response to said card type prompt.

1   10. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said memory

2 includes a lookup table correlating card type information with

3 dataform information, wherein said control circuit deactivates

4 certain decoding algorithms when processing a card based on

5 said dataform information so that decoding algorithms

6 activated by said control circuit when processing a card

7 depend on a card type of said card.

1   11. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said control

2 circuit is adapted to:

3   display in said display a rightside up prompt prompting a

4   user to place an identification card in said tray rightside

5   up;

6   read a dataform of a topside of said card;

7   display on said display an upside down prompt prompting a

8   user to place an identification card in said tray bottomside

9   up;

10   read a dataform of a bottomside of said card;

11   compare decoded dataform data from a topside of a card to

12   decoded dataform data from a bottomside of a card; and

13   display on said display an INVALID CARD message if there

14   is a mismatch of topside and bottomside data.

1   12.   The card reader of claim 9, wherein a dataform of a

2   topside of said card is an OCR decodable dataform and wherein

3   a dataform of a bottomside of said card is a symbol dataform.

1   13.   The card reader of claim 1, wherein said control

2   circuit decodes said at least one dataform to determine a

3   first set of image information, captures an image

4   representation of a photograph of said card to determine a

5   second set of image information, and displays on said display

6   said first set of image information side by side said second

7   set of image information.

1   14. The card reader of claim 1, further comprising a mag

2 stripe reader, wherein said control circuit is adapted to:

3   decode said dataform of said card to generate a first

4 decoded message from a first card;

5   display on said display a prompt prompting a user to

6 swipe a second card in said mag stripe reader;

7   read said mag stripe of said second card to generate a

8 second decoded message from a second card; and

9   compare said first decoded message to said second decoded

10 message.

1   15. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said card reader

2 is in communication with an external database, and wherein

3 said control circuit is adapted to:

4   decode a dataform of said card to generate a dataform

5 message;

6   parse data of one certain field of said dataform message

7 from remaining data from said dataform message;

8   access said external database;

9   call database data from said remote database using said

10 parsed field data; and

11   compare remaining data from said dataform message to said

38

12   database data called from said remote database.

1   16.   The card reader of claim 13, wherein said parsed

2   field data parsed from said dataform message is name field

3   data.

1   17.   The card reader of claim 13, wherein said remote

2   database is stored on a server of the internet.

1   18.   The reader of claim 1, wherein said reader is mobile

2   and hand-held, wherein said housing comprises a front and a

3   top, wherein said imaging axis extends from a front of said

4   reader, wherein said tray assembly extends from a front of

5   said housing, and wherein said control panel and display are

6   disposed in top of said housing.

1   19.   The reader of claim 1, wherein said control circuit

2   is adapted to display messages on said display that vary

3   depending upon a level of degradation of said card.

1   20.   The reader of claim 1, wherein said control circuit

2   is adapted to generate an error correction value when reading

3   a card and wherein said control circuit displays a message in

4   said display that varies depending upon said error correction

5   value.